



Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953

Smoke Signal

December 2023

www.siarc.us

Welcome to a rainy start to December. We actually had a little snow to end November, but it did not stay long. I hope I am ready for the next few months of weather.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at the AWA Museum, 6925 Routes 5&20 (across from SR 444), in Bloomfield, at 6pm. Members and a guest are welcome. See below for more information.

We continue to hold the **Health and Welfare net** on the K2BWK 146.820- (110.9) repeater at 8pm, Monday through Friday, (except club meeting nights) so there is ample opportunity to catch up with your friends. We just had net #925 on Friday. Thank you to all who have checked in over the last 3+ years. I hope you all can check in.

Past Events

Our program in November was a question and answer session moderated by Sandy KA2HQZ. She chose some questions from the Extra class license test pool and it was very interesting. We are lucky to have some VERY bright engineering minds in our group as they easily explained the questions and answers. I will need to really do some studying to pass the Extra! Have to break out the study guide that expires in June. This program was a prelude to some meeting programs for 2024.

Saturday November 18, saw 20 of us get together for breakfast at the Villager Restaurant and it was great to see all of the smiling faces sharing lots of stories. Our next breakfast will be in February. All are welcome.

This past Saturday was Skywarn Recognition Day to acknowledge the participation in the program as Severe Weather Spotters. Many National Weather Service offices around the country were on the air from 7pm Friday to 7pm Saturday. I was able to operate some of the time and made 16 contacts. Most notable was a very long distance contact with KB2FSB in Palmyra, NY (hi) and a NWS station in Virginia where the operator was from Ontario County. You never know who you will contact! Anybody else operate for the contest?

I know a couple of our folks have been doing some Parks on the Air activations and operating from your outdoor sites, any reports on the fun you are having? We would all be very interested in hearing from you!

Any interesting or unusual contacts made? What have you been doing with amateur radio? Build anything interesting? Let me know and I can publicize it. And you can always show it off by doing a little program for the club. Any new radios or equipment in your inventory?

Upcoming Events

The December meeting on the 13th will be our **annual holiday get together**. We will meet at the AWA Museum, 6925 Routes 5&20 in Bloomfield (across from SR 444) at 6pm. The club will provide a sheet pizza and each member is asked to bring a dish to pass and their table service. If you have not done so already, please let me know at kb2nci@gmail.com if you are coming and what you will bring. You can bring a guest if you like. We will eat about 6:30 and will be able to wander the museum and enjoy all that they have to offer and show. If you are not already, consider a membership in the Museum to show our appreciation for allowing us to use their facility. Also, I will have raffle tickets for members (1 each) and the club will give away the ARRL book "Here to There: Radio Wave Propagation". If the weather decides to be uncooperative and we need to cancel, I will do announcements on the K2BWK 146.820- (110.9) repeater, between 5 and 6pm.

The new Yaesu Repeater has arrived and is in the process of being programmed and installed at the VA tower. We will keep the current repeater on site in case it is needed.

The January 10th meeting will be our **annual club Flea Market** so if you have items that you would like to move along, get them together, put a price and your call sign on them and bring them that night.

The **next Laurel VE Testing Session** will be on January 10, 2024. Thank you to Sabrina WD2STK and her team of dedicated volunteer examiners. You provide a great service to the ham radio community. She will need VEs to help administer the exams, so please contact her if you can help. See the SIARC website, Exam page, for details.

The weekend of January 27 and 28 is **Winter Field Day** and I will be hosting a station or two at my home in Victor on Saturday the 27th. If you would like to operate a little winter activity, keep the date in mind and there will be more information coming out next month.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), ARRL 10 meter SSB and CW contest, ARRL 160 meter CW contest, ARRL CW Rookie Roundup, lots of Parks on the Air stations, and many others. See the December QST pages 65 and 94 and the WA7BNM website www.contestcalendar.com for more information. These events are a great way to build up your DXCC, WAS and other scores for stations worked. And they are fun!

December is the last month!

The ARRL is sponsoring a yearlong event, **Volunteers on the Air**. It recognizes the many volunteers around the country that keep the ARRL and amateur radio growing and healthy. Check out the article in the On the Air January/February issue or www.arrl.org for details.

Upcoming Public Service activities for 2024 (as of this date):

Wild Water Derby, April 27

Seneca 7 Relay Run around Seneca Lake, April 28 (new event for us)

Tour De Cure, June 8 (new route into Ontario County)

Shortsville Fire Department Parade, June 14 (probably)

Musselman Triathlon, July 14

Phelps Sauerkraut Festival Krauter, August 3 (probably)

Finger Lakes Triathlon, September 8

Wineglass Marathon, October 6

Pumpkin Patrol, October 30 and 31

We are fortunate to be invited to help with all of these events, so please make time next year to help as much as you can. It provides many opportunities to practice our skills to fulfill our mandate for the Amateur Radio Service from the FCC.

The last weekend in June (22 and 23) is **ARRL Field Day**. We need to decide on a location agreeable to us and the Drumlins ARC and if we need to reserve it, that should be done in January. I will be reserving the EOC grounds and Room 1 for us to use as a backup.

The **Antique Wireless Association** is working on a project to bring amateur radio and all of its fun to school age children by constructing a portable station that could be taken to the students. They are looking for any interested parties to help with this project. Below are their goals for the program:

Goal: To introduce and educate children about communication technologies as a component of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) by:

- a. Constructing a self-contained, portable amateur radio station transportable in an enclosed cargo trailer for the purpose of educating and demonstrating to children the basics of wireless communications during good times and in emergencies; and
- b. Supporting a special effort to reach out to our region's underserved rural communities; and
- c. Facilitating visits to schools, scouts, libraries, camps, homeschool groups, fairs and public service events; and
- d. Supporting AWA's educational outreach efforts, which extend well beyond the AWA campus.

If you are interested, please contact Bob Hobday at president@antiquewireless.org

I was informed that the course for the **2024 Tour De Cure** has been changed and will come down into Ontario County, around Canandaigua Lake and be based out of Finger Lakes Community College. I am hopeful we can increase our participation as a club for the June 8th event.

RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) and ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service)

Thank you to the Ontario County Emergency Management Office for its continued support.

Emergency Management from the County Administrator's News Letter

RACES-Pumpkin Patrol: On October 30 and 31, 20 radio operators, including Ontario, Monroe, and Wayne County RACES members, worked with NY State Police Troop T to staff each Thruway overpass in Ontario and Wayne Counties to deter mischief. A RACES residential station was net control for the first night, and the second night's activity was coordinated through the RACES station at the Safety Training Facility. All communications were relayed through the Drumlins Amateur Radio Club repeater in Wayne County. No incidents were reported.

RACES-Simulated Emergency Test: On November 4, RACES conducted a Simulated Emergency Test from 9:45am to 12:00pm. This exercise evaluated the activation of the RACES group through the Hyper Reach Call system at 911, and the ability to respond to locations within the county to provide reliable communications to 2 the county's Emergency Operations Center at the Safety Training Facility and the Geneva City Hall communications site should existing communications systems fail or become overloaded. In addition to the county and Geneva EOC stations, RACES volunteers operated from the 911 center, multiple county hospitals, and several mobile units established communications from various fire stations in the county. Sixteen RACES members participated, and Ontario County RACES Repeaters in South Bristol and Geneva were used for the exercise. All exercise goals were achieved.

The annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) was held on November 4 and there were 16 RACES stations that checked in with 13 able to deploy to cover the two county EOC stations, 4 hospitals and a couple of Fire Department locations. We were able to send voice and digital messages from most locations and a hot wash was held afterwards to discuss our success and areas for improvement. It is highly encouraged for all RACES members to participate in these sessions and anyone interested in joining the group should contact Steve WB2VMR, the Ontario County Radio Officer.

The next **RACES meeting** will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 9am in the Safety Training Center. All RACES members are encouraged and welcome to attend. We also have 3 evening meetings scheduled for 2024. If you are interested in joining ARES/RACES, please attend or contact us as well.

The RACES training net held on **Sunday, December 10**, will be on the W2ONT UHF 442.200+ (110.9) repeater to test its coverage. If you are in the Geneva area, you can also check in using the 147.090+ (110.9) repeater since it is linked to the 442.200.

I encourage all of you to check into our **weekly RACES/ARES nets**, which are on Sundays at 8pm (except around holidays) (you are invited to check into any other net also) and practice those skills that someday you may be called upon to use. They are held on the W2ONT 145.450- (pl 110.9) repeater. We are also looking for additional stations to practice being Net Control and Assistant Net Control. In the event we are called out, having experience as Net Control will be very beneficial. We will be migrating to a more digital usage for the nets. Use of FLDIGI and MT63 will be very important for our mission to assist the Emergency Management Office. If you have ANY questions, feel free to contact me at kb2nci@gmail.com or 585-924-0752. If you are not a member and would like to become one, please contact me or our Radio Officer, Steve WB2VMR. And please let me know if you have a change in contact information. We need to keep the roster as current as possible.

The New York State RACES net is held each Sunday morning at 9am on 3993.5khz LSB and members are always welcome and to get some more training on HF net operations. The net follows the same procedures that our weekly nets do. A digital message is sent afterwards on 3583.5kHz USB using Olivia 8-500, MFSK 32 and Thor 22. We are in Region 5 (check in is by region) and we are always very well represented. Give it a try!

Monitor the W2ONT 145.450 repeater in times of severe weather or area wide power outages. And if you do not hear anyone, start up an informal ARES net.

To receive emails on a national basis for ARES, ARRL members can subscribe to the ARES Letter by going to the ARRL website, Public Service tab, ARES tab, ARES Letter and then "How to Subscribe". It is a very informative publication.

Member Profile and Picture

No volunteers for October. Anyone for January and beyond?

Odd and Ends

I wish to congratulate one of our members and his wife, Tony KD2HNI and Jessica, on the birth of their first child, Evelyn, recently. So that explains why we have not seen him in a while. Enjoy the time with her; it goes quickly!

A new link, **NY weather MESONET**, has been added to the SIARC website. It is a map of weather stations around New York State operated by the University at Albany, Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences. Check it out!! [NYS Mesonet](#)

May 3, 2023, the transition period ends for all amateur transmitters to be compliant with the FCC Exposure Rules. We have had two years to get into compliance and now the time has come to “get ‘er done”. The complete article is in the May QST, pages 64, 65 and 66. It is our time to show the FCC that we can follow the rules for safe operation of our stations. You can also go to [RF Exposure Calculator \(arrl.org\)](http://arrl.org)

The IARU has designated **14.300 mhz** as a worldwide center of activity frequency for emergency traffic. There are two nets that run from 7am to 10pm eastern time daily. The **Intercontinental Amateur Traffic Net**, aka Intercon, (www.intercontinentalnet.org) operates from 7am to noon and the **Maritime Mobile Services Net** (www.mmsn.org) operates daily from 12pm to 10pm ET. Please keep these frequencies clear during times of need and net times. Listen in for some interesting conversations.

A few months ago, I asked for some assistance with a couple of areas and these are the folks I tapped.

Technical Committee Chair—Steve WB2VMR

Programs—Sandy KA2HQZ

Publicity—Doug KD2LGE

Please contact them if you would like to assist in their area or have ideas.

A new **RF Exposure Calculator** has been added to the Links on the SIARC website.

For all the new hams, are you aware of **QRZ.com**? It is a wealth of information on hams WORLDWIDE and carries informative articles, editorials. It is editable by the individual ham so can be updated as often as you like. They also have a logger for your contacts. Check it out!

I would encourage all ARRL members to check out the new publication the League has introduced, **“On the Air”**, aimed at new hams and those experienced hams that have some questions. The November/December issue covers many topics, including articles on Public Service and ICS forms, Contesting in VHF/UHF bands, Coaxial Connector Adaptors and many others. It is available on the website and you may choose to receive the print version or QST with your membership. Your membership allows you to see the digital version of all of their periodicals QST, QEX and NCJ.

Discover the ARRL Learning Center and how to “Make Amateur Radio Your Own” at [Make Amateur Radio Your Own | ARRL Learning Center](#). Give a look-see!!

NEW REPEATERS:

The W2WDS 146.985- (82.5) repeater is up and running in Naples. This is the former frequency for the N2LSJ repeater in Penn Yan. There is also an APRS I-Gate at this site. This repeater is linked to the WB2KAO 444.850+ (110.9) repeater in Greece only on Saturday nights for the Green Eggs and Hams Net.

There is a **new 6 meter repeater** on the air, from Naples. The call sign is W2WDS. It is on a tower site space provided by Dean, W2WDS, and the frequency is 53.110- (pl 82.5). The **440 repeater on the same site**, 442.500+ (82.5) is on the air as well. The 442.500 is linked to the WB2KAO repeater 444.850+ (110.9) in Greece. Many of our members have been getting on the air with 6 meters. Looks like fun. Thanks to Dave W2ACC and Dean W2WDS for these upgrades.

As a reminder, the Smoke Signals and meeting minutes are posted as soon as possible on the SIARC website. This is an easy way to keep up with the group if you miss a meeting. Steve has also started posting the Minutes of the Board Meetings, which will be held at various times throughout the year. Thanks to Steve, KD2OM, for keeping the website up to date.

For local repeaters, you can go to www.rochesterham.org and click on Useful Links to find a quick reference. You can also go to www.unyrepco.org and www.wnysorc.org for repeaters in western New York. Lots of information is available, and the councils are continually trying to keep it current.

If you travel, look at www.repeaterbook.com for lots of repeater information. They have an app for your phone that shows repeaters within 50 miles of where you are. And for scanner listeners, go to www.radioreference.com for nationwide information.

W2ACC has repeaters up in Romulus that can offer good coverage to our east. They are on 145.130- (pl 110.9) and 442.225+ (pl 82.5). Give them a try. The 220mHz repeater (on the Stanley tower) is now up and waiting to be used. The frequency is 224.26 (-1.6mHz offset and pl of 110.9).

Check out www.dstarusers.org and www.dstarinfo.com for lots of information on D-Star.

Dues are payable in September for the next year. They are \$10 for an individual, \$14 for a family and \$100 for Life membership. Please see Stan WM3D to pay. He would love to hear from you! You can also send your renewals to me, Tom Sanders at 6310 Gillis Road, Victor, NY 14564 and I will forward to Stan.

Please be sure to inform Stan WM3D or Tom KB2NCI if you change your preferred email address and phone number, or other changes in your contact information. Having up to date information helps if we need to reach you quickly (e.g. canceling the Holiday party).

A reminder to renew your ARRL membership (you are a member, aren't you?) through the club. We get a commission on each new (\$15) and renewal (\$5) if the club sends it in. See Tom KB2NCI for details. I encourage you to support the ARRL and become or maintain membership. They may not be perfect, but they work hard to represent all of amateur radio.

What projects are you working on or involved in? We would love to hear about them, either at the meeting or in the Smoke Signal. Let me know.

Nets

STILL GOING---Since March 17, 2020, SIARC has been hosting a Health and Welfare net on the K2BWK 146.820 repeater, nightly at 8pm, Monday through Friday. It is intended as a net for hams to keep in contact with others. It has been lots of fun to participate and hear from so many, and ALL are welcome. We just completed net #925 and have heard from hams in Wayne, Monroe, Yates, Cayuga and Seneca Counties.

146.820- (110.9) K2BWK	Monday through Friday 8pm Health and Welfare Net
145.450- (110.9) W2ONT	Sundays 8pm Ontario County RACES/ARES training net
146.685- (71.9) WA2EMO	Sundays 8:35pm Wayne County RACES net
146.610- (110.9) W2ARM	Thursdays 7pm Monroe County ARES/RACES net
3993.5kHz LSB	Sundays at 9am New York State RACES net

Club/RACES Repeaters

K2BWK	146.820- (110.9) Canandaigua
K2BWK D-Star	147.375+ Honeoye
K2BWK D-Star	443.500+ Honeoye
W2ONT	145.450- (110.9) Gannett Hill
W2ONT	442.200+ (110.9) Gannett Hill—linked to 147.090+

W2ONT 147.090+ (110.9) Geneva City Hall—linked to 442.200+
KD2HVC D-Star 444.300+ Stanley
KD2HYJ D-Star 444.500 (no offset) Victor hot spot—very local coverage for now

President's Thoughts

Well, the last month of the year is here and we are steamrolling into 2024. It was a good and busy year here and I hope for all of you as well. We were able to take a few trips and see some of our majestic country. Even though part of my family is spread around a bit, we were able to visit and do some things with them. I was also able to enjoy this hobby and its great people, with several operating activities, public service events and educational opportunities. Amateur radio really does open up a world of things to do and learn.

I have listed several activities for 2024 that will need our help and gives each of us a chance to work with friends to serve a goal of helping our community. They are great opportunities to show what ham radio is about and what we can do.

We will have the opportunity to enjoy all of those areas mentioned above next year, as well as experience a rare event, a Total Eclipse on April 8, and we are in the path of totality. Get your glasses now so you can observe safely and not miss out. Who knows what this event will do for propagation?

Have Fun and Talk Up Ham Radio, Be Safe and I hope to catch you on the radio!
Get Active/Get Involved!

73, Tom Sanders KB2NCI

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Ham Radio: Service, Science, Skill

The Amateur's Code^[L]_[SEP] Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)^[L]_[SEP] The Radio
^[L]_[SEP] Amateur is:
^[L]_[SEP] CONSIDERATE Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of
others.^[L]_[SEP]

LOYAL Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.

FRIENDLY With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC With station and skill always ready for service to country and community.